Message Text

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SUBJECT: CIEC FAC - FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

REF: A) OECD 12908, B) OECD 12957, C) OECD 12536 D) STATE 99389

PASS - DAVID GANTZ, CIEC DELEGATION

- 1. COMMENTS ON G-8 LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B FOLLOW:
- 2. US DEL CAN ACCEPT SUBSTITUTION OF "HOST COUNTRIES" IN PARA 3 OF G-8 TEXT, PURSUANT TO EC REQUEST CITED IN REF B. PHRASE "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" SHOULD BE STRONGLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESISTED, BECAUSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS SECTION TO SOME EXTENT AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF OPEC DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND BECAUSE WE HAVE, IN CODES OF CONDUCT AND ELSEWHERE, RESISTED NOTION THAT LDCS HAVE ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS IN REGARD TO THEIR TREATMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

- 3. AS TO EC PROPOSAL IN PARA 2 OF REF B, US CAN ACCEPT LANGUAGE THAT "HOST STATES DETERMINE THE SECTORS INTO WHICH FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT MAY BE ADMITTED", BUT SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESIST BALANCE OF SENTENCE FOR REASONS STATED IN REF. D. HOWEVER EC READS ORIGINAL U.S. TEXT, OUR INTENTION WAS NOT TO HAVE STATEMENT APPLICABLE TO EXISTING INVESTMENTS.
- 4. IN REGARD TO PARA 3 OF G-8 TEXT, US DEL SHOULD ALSO RAISE WITH G-8 REPS, (AND ESPECIALLY LEVY OF SWITZERLAND) THE FACT THAT PARA 3, IN BOTH US AND OTHER G-8 TEXTS, IGNORES FACT THAT MANY G-8 COUNTRIES HAVE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH LDCS WHICH OFTEN CALL FOR FREEDOM OF ESTABLISHMENT AND ALSO NATIONAL TREATMENT OF ESTABLISHED INVESTMENTS. US HAS RESISTED INSERTING LANGUAGE HERE ABOUT SOVEREIGN RIGHT "TO BE EXERCISED CONSISTENT WITH TREATY OBLIGATIONS", BUT THIS, ALONG WITH REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, WOULD BECOME NECESSITY SHOULD LANGUAGE OF PARA 3 COVER ESTABLISHED INVESTMENT.
- 5. PARA 2 LANGUAGE OF REF A IS ACCEPTABLE UPTO PARA 7 OF G-8 TEXT.
- 6. CONCERNING PARA 7 OF G-8 TEXT, CONTAINED IN REF A: -- A IS NOT THE WORD "PERMANENCE" IN 7(B) A BIT STRONG? WE COULD ACCEPT ITS DELETION.
- -- B PARA 7(F) HAS BEEN MODIFIED IN UNACCEPTABLE WAY FROM LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN PARA 12 OF REF. C. PROBLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH NEW LANGUAGE IS THAT IT PERMITS ARBITRATION ONLY WHERE HOST COUNTRY PROCEDURES DO NOT RESOLVE ISSUE. HOWEVER, ICSID AGREEMENTS DO NOT NECESSARILY, AND IN FACT RARELY, CALL UPON USE OF LOCAL PROCEDURES BEFORE RESORT MAY BE HAD TO ICSID. THUS, WHEN JAMAICA REFUSED, IN VIOLATION OF ITS CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT, TO ARBITRATE THE ALUMINUM DISPUTES BEFORE ICSID, THE US MADE CLEAR THAT FAILURE TO HONOR AN ARBITRAL AWARD WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED A TREATY BREACH. SO TOO, APART FROM ICSID, REFUSAL OF A STATE TO HONOR A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CAN CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF JUSTICE.

-- ON ASSUMPTION THAT G-8 TEXT OF PARA 7(F) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY G-19 AND THAT COMPROMISE WILL BE SOUGHT, US DEL SHOULD STRONGLY URGE G-8 TO PUT FORWARD SUBSTANCE (THOUGH NOT GRAMMAR) OF LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN PARA 12 OF REF C (OR ORIGINAL US LANGUAGE). US DEL CANNOT ACCEPT LANGUAGE WHICH ENTAILS PROBLEMS DESCRIBED ABOVE. (WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN G-8 RATIONAL FOR "TWO-TIER"

APPROACH TO ARBITRATION, AS IT IS CONTRARY TO MANY OF THEIR OWN PRACTICES.) ANOTHER ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING:

-- "HOST COUNTRY PROVISION OF AND/OR AGREEMENT TO STABLE, TRANSPARENT, AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PRE-AGREED PROCEDURES FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED PROCEDURAL STANDARDS CONTAINED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE IBRD'S CENTRE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES IS AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTION IN THIS REGARD". VANCE

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